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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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005514
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EXAMINER
HONG, S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2776	26

DATE MAILED: 10/27/98

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

Applicant(s)

Examiner

Group Art Unit

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Response

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a response be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for response is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to respond within the set or extended period for response will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9-21-98
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 66-80 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) NONE is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 66-80 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
 - ☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____
 - ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 1.7.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Part III DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: CPA request and amendment filed 8/3/98 to the application filed 8/26/96 which is a FWC of the application Ser. No. 08/155,656 filed 11/22/93.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. § 119, which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

3. This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be required when the application is allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 66-80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seto, U.S. Pat. No. 5,398,311, 3/95 (filed 2/88) in view of Kokunishi et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,897,638, 1/90 and Sakurai, U.S. Pat. No. 5,562,350, 10/96 (filed 4/89).

As per independent claim 66 and dependent claims 69 and 70, Seto discloses the following claimed elements in an outline forming apparatus:

- means for storing font data which include coordinate information indicating position of basic outline points for forming an outline of a pattern having a predetermined weight, and movement information, provided for each of the basic outline points individually, for moving each of the basic outline points using weight information indicative of weight of a pattern as a parameter (col.5, line 12, "A character pattern ..is expressed by a dot train P0, P1, P2" and col.3, line 2, "... reference character data is stored as coordinate point information on contours and which is provided arithmetic operating means ...[and] is enlarged or reduced in accordance with designated output size."; also see FIG.2B and col.5, lines 36-51);

- input means for inputting weight information indicating a desired weight of an outline of a pattern to be generated (col.5, line 55, "the output size designated by the keyboard ...and mouse...");

- generating means for generating an outline of the pattern having the weight indicated by the weight information input by said input means, said outline being generated from outline points which are obtained by moving the basic outline points based on said weight information, the coordinate information and the movement information (col.3, lines 6-20, "...with designated output size, the coordinate point information indicative of the main outer shape is first subject to arithmetic operation for enlargement or reduction by using the coordinate value information as the absolute values....").

However, Seto does not disclose the following two limitations: (1) the movement information includes position information indicating relative positions of outline points of the pattern having a weight different from the predetermined weight relative to the positions

indicated by the coordinate information, and (2) path information indicating a moving path of the outline points, in conjunction with change of the weight, between the basic outline points and the relative positions.

As per the missing limitations, Kokunishi discloses an outline forming system using moving the control points (see FIG.5) and using the movement information of the points with respect to the different weight (col.3, lines 33-40). In the prior art, Kokunishi discloses the claimed element of: the movement information including position information indicating relative positions of outline points of the pattern having a weight different from the predetermined weight relative to the positions indicated by the coordinate information (col.9, lines 33-62, "Even a stroke of a same class can have various edge-side shapes ... for example, the starting edge-side may be added with serif or not and the ending edge-side is a straight line or a curve."). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Kokunishi's invention into Seto, since Kokunishi explicitly provided the motivation in the disclosure by teaching that "the present invention ..provide[s] ...character patterns of high quality, while providing ...the feasibility of design change").

Still, Kokunishi and Seto is different from the claimed invention in that Kokunishi does not show the path information indicating a moving path of the outline points, in conjunction with change of the weight, between the basic outline points and the relative positions.

Although Kokunishi suggests varying the moving-path of the points so that different design styles can be assigned to different weights (col.9, lines 33-62, "*Even a stroke of a same class*

can have various edge-side shapes.." suggests that different stroke class usually have different variance in the shape.) but does not explicitly show that in the prior art. However, varying the style of a character with respect to the scaling weight was well known technique in the art, as Sakurai disclosed a character forming invention "in which each vector character font is provided with an effective size range of character generation and with information on vector character font of a style to be used outside said effective size range, thereby enabling character output with an optimum vector character font according to the character size (col.1, lines 45-50)." Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated, in the invention of Seto and Kokunishi, the means to vary the relative positions of the points with each other to vary the style based on weight, since Sakurai provided the explicit motivation by teaching that it would have solved the problems in the prior art (such as in Seto) that when "characters of all sizes are formed from a vector character pattern of a same style, small characters are easily filled in and become illegible (col.1, line 24)" and "[i]mage quality is deteriorated in a large character size, if the vector character pattern is simplified in complex portion (col.1, line 33)."

As per dependent claims 67 and 68, Seto discloses an output means comprising a printer for outputting the patterns (col.4, line 28, "... a high speed printer ...serving as an image output section").

As per dependent claims 71, the prior art disclose the means for the path information changing based on the desired weight, but do not disclose that the path information is indicated by a function. However, the use of functions for the path information would have been

obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, since Kokunishi pointed out that in the font art, the contours of the characters were expressed by the functions (col.12, line 5, "a spline curve is used for interconnecting points ...shown in FIG.5, a bezier curve is used for interconnecting points").

As per dependent claim 72, Seto discloses:

- judgement means for judging whether or not each of the basic outline points has non-zero movement information provided therefore and decision means for deciding the position of outline points for a pattern to be generated by moving each of the basic outline points having non-zero movement information provided therefor (col.6, lines 21-51; also col.6, line 54, "All of the values of FX ..., the offset values of the contour points indicative of the additional outer shape can be uniform or can be limited to a few kinds of values ..."; also FIG.2B and col.5, lines 24-51 that shows the means for determining the amount of non-zero movements and zero movements.).

Claims 73-79 are for methods performed by the apparatus of claims 66-72, and are similarly rejected under the same rationale.

Claim 80 is for a computer readable medium having the instructions for executing the method of claim 66, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

Response to Amendment

6. Applicant's arguments filed 8/3/98 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

On page 9 of the amendment, Applicant asserts that the teaching in the prior art which "Sakurai ..notes that when character patterns of the same style are formed regardless of size, small characters may become illegible ...however, that a suitable pattern is selected according to the size of the character to be formed" fails to provide the motivation to vary the relative positions of outline points with respect to each other to vary the character based on weight. Examiner disagrees. When Sakurai teaches that a different character outline is selected, it suggests that a different outline, with a different style (thus, different outline paths), must be generated. The fact that Sakurai says "selection" does not necessarily mean that a pre-stored outline is chosen. It also suggests that a present outline be modified to provide the different style.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steve Hong whose telephone number is (703) 308-5465. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM-5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached on (703) 305-9701.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this final action should be mailed to:

Box AF

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

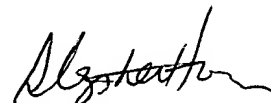
(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications; please mark
"EXPEDITED PROCEDURE")

Or:

(703) 305-9724 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

For any written or facsimile communication submitted ON OR AFTER APRIL 26, 1998, this Examiner, who was assigned to Art Unit 2772, will be **assigned to Art Unit 2776**. Please include the new Art Unit in the caption or heading of any communication submitted after the APRIL 26, 1998 date. Your cooperation in this matter will assist in the timely processing of the submission and is appreciated by the Office.



Stephen Hong

Primary Examiner

October 26, 1998